

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method in which a computer system initiates execution of software instructions stored in memory for editing a form calculation, the computer-implemented method comprising:

displaying a hyperlink for an element in the form calculation, the form calculation being a database query and the form calculation including a mathematical formula, displaying the hyperlink to indicate to a user that a control is available for the element, said the hyperlink including at least one hyperlink target, the hyperlink target identified by a link to a choice satisfying the element on the form calculation, said the hyperlink providing one of the group consisting of

(i) a link from the form calculation to another location, wherein the another location is identified by a reference to valid variables in the hyperlink target and

(ii) a link from the form calculation to another file, wherein the another file is identified by a reference to a selection of choices in the hyperlink target;

upon a selection of the hyperlink by the user, presenting the control for user interaction; and, the control displaying a list of choices satisfying the element in the form calculation;

receiving a selection from the list of choices; and

upon completion of user interaction with the control and in response to receiving the selection, replacing the element with a new element responsive to user action, corresponding to the selection, displaying the hyperlink for the new element in the form calculation, and causing the presented control to disappear.

2. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 6/claim 1,

wherein the list of choices is a pull-down menu.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the control is a dialog box.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the control is a text entry field.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A computer system for editing a form calculation, the system comprising:

a processor;
a memory unit that stores instructions associated with an application
executed by the processor; and
an interconnect coupling the processor and the memory unit, enabling the
computer system to execute the application and perform operations of:
displaying a user interface for displaying information to a user and
for accepting input from the user;
displaying a hyperlink displayed on the user interface for an
element in the form calculation, the form calculation being a spreadsheet
and the form calculation including a mathematical formula, displaying the
hyperlink to indicate to the user that a control is available for the element,
said the hyperlink including at least one hyperlink target, the hyperlink
target identified by a link to a choice satisfying the element on the form
calculation, said the hyperlink providing one of the group consisting of
(i) a link from the form calculation to another location,
wherein the another location is identified by a reference to valid
variables in the hyperlink target and
(ii) a link from the form calculation to another file, wherein

-4-

the another file is identified by a reference to a selection of choices in the hyperlink target;

upon a selection of the hyperlink by the user, displaying the control displayed on the user interface for user interaction; and, the control including a list of choices satisfying the element in the form calculation; receiving a selection from the list of choices through the user interface; and

upon completion of user interaction with the control, a new element responsive to user action, and in response to receiving the selection, replacing the element with a new element corresponding to the selection, displaying the hyperlink for the new element in the form calculation, and causing the control disappearing to disappear from view.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for editing a form calculation, the form calculation being a database query, the computer program product comprising a computer readable memory device having computer readable code stored thereon for processing data information such that the code, when executed by a processing device, causes the processing device to perform the operations of; including program code which:

displaysdisplaying a hyperlink for an element in the form calculation, the form calculation being a database query and the form calculation including a mathematical formula, displaying the hyperlink to indicate to a user that a control is available for the element, said the hyperlink including at least one hyperlink target, the hyperlink target identified by a link to a choice satisfying the element on the form calculation, said the hyperlink providing one of the group consisting of

(i) a link from the form calculation to another location, wherein the another location is identified by a reference to valid variables in the

hyperlink target and

(ii) a link from the form calculation to another file, wherein the another file is identified by a reference to a selection of choices in the hyperlink target;

upon a selection of the hyperlink by the user, presents presenting the control for user interaction; and, the control displaying a list of choices satisfying the element in the form calculation;

receiving a selection from the list of choices; and

upon completion of user interaction with the control and in response to receiving the selection, replaces replacing the element with a new element corresponding to the selection, displaying the hyperlink for the new element in the form calculation responsive to user action, and causes causing the presented control to disappear.

14. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The computer system of ~~claim 19~~claim 11, wherein the list of choices is a pull-down menu.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the control is a dialog box.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the control is a text entry field.

23. - 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of ~~claim 27~~claim 13, wherein the list of choices is a pull-down menu.

-6-

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the control is a dialog box.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the control is a text entry field.

31. - 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein presenting the control for user interaction includes selecting the control from the group consisting of a dialog box, a list, and a text entry field.

52. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein displaying the hyperlink for the element in the form calculation includes displaying the hyperlink using color coding and formatting to distinguish the hyperlink from other parts of the form calculation that do not have a hyperlink.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 51, further comprising:

displaying an instruction area that presents instructions for the user to click on the element in the form calculation displayed as a hyperlink to modify the element.

54. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 53, wherein displaying the hyperlink for the element in the form calculation includes displaying ~~the form~~ multiple form calculations as a tree structure ~~of database query~~.

55. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 53, further comprising:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, highlighting a

corresponding condition in the form calculation.

56. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 55, further comprising:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, displaying a dialog for setting up configuration of the database query.

57. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 56, wherein selecting the control as the text entry field for user interaction includes restricting text entry to numeric values for numeric elements.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the control displayed on the user interface for user interaction includes selecting the control from the group consisting of a dialog box, a list, and a text entry field.

59. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 11, wherein the hyperlink displayed on the user interface for the element in the form calculation includes the hyperlink displayed using color coding and formatting to distinguish the hyperlink from other parts of the form calculation that do not have a hyperlink.

60. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 58, further comprising an instruction area displayed that presents instructions for the user to click on the element in the form calculation displayed as a hyperlink to modify the element.

61. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 60, wherein the hyperlink displayed on the user interface for the element in the form calculation includes displaying ~~the form~~ multiple form calculations as a tree structure ~~of database query~~.

62. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 60, further comprising:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, a corresponding condition in the form calculation being highlighted.

63. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 62, further comprising:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, a dialog for setting up configuration of the database query being displayed.

64. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 63, wherein the control selected as the text entry field for user interaction includes text entry being restricted to numeric values for numeric elements.

65. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein program code which presents the control for user interaction includes program code which selects the control from the group consisting of a dialog box, a list, and a text entry field.

66. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein program code which displays the hyperlink for the element in the form calculation includes program code which displays the hyperlink using color coding and formatting to distinguish the hyperlink from other parts of the form calculation that do not have a hyperlink.

67. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 65, further comprising program code which:

displays an instruction area that presents instructions for the user to click on the element in the form calculation displayed as a hyperlink to modify the element.

68. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 67, wherein program code which displays the hyperlink for the element in the form calculation

-9-

includes program code which displays ~~the form~~ multiple form calculations as a tree structure ~~of database query~~.

69. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 67, further comprising program code which:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, highlights a corresponding condition in the form calculation.

70. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, further comprising program code which:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, displays a dialog for setting up configuration of the database query.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 70, wherein program code which selects the control as the text entry field for user interaction includes program code which restricts text entry to numeric values for numeric elements.

72. (New) A computer-implemented method in which a computer system initiates execution of software instructions stored in memory for editing a form calculation, the computer-implemented method comprising:

displaying a pre-formatted form calculation that includes displaying a hyperlink for an element in the form calculation, the form calculation being a database query and including a mathematical equation, displaying the hyperlink to indicate to a user that a control is available for the element, the hyperlink including at least one hyperlink target, the hyperlink target identified by a link to a choice satisfying the element on the form calculation, the hyperlink providing a link from the form calculation to another location, wherein the another location is identified by a reference to a list of valid variables in the form calculation;

responsive to selection of the hyperlink by the user, presenting the control

-10-

for user interaction, the control displaying the list of valid variables, each valid variable for selection in the list of valid variables being presented without a hyperlink;

receiving a selection of a valid variable from the list of valid variables; and upon completion of user interaction with the control and in response to receiving the selection, replacing the element with a new element corresponding to the selection of the valid variable, displaying the hyperlink for the new element in the form calculation, and causing the presented control to disappear.

73. (New) The method of claim 72, wherein displaying the pre-formatted form calculation includes:

displaying a second hyperlink for a second element in the form calculation, the form calculation including a mathematical equation, displaying the second hyperlink to indicate to a user that a control is available for the second element, the second hyperlink including at least one second hyperlink target, the second hyperlink target identified by a second link to a choice satisfying the second element on the form calculation, the second hyperlink providing a link from the form calculation to a second another location, wherein the second another location is identified by a reference to a list of valid operators in the form calculation;

responsive to selection of the second hyperlink by the user, presenting the control for user interaction, the control displaying the list of valid operators for the mathematical equation, each operator for selection in the list being presented without a hyperlink;

receiving a selection of a valid operator from the list of valid operators; and upon completion of user interaction with the control and in response to receiving the selection of a valid operator, replacing the second element with a second new element corresponding to the selection of the valid operator, displaying the second hyperlink for the second new element in the form calculation and causing the presented control to disappear.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein presenting the control for user interaction includes selecting the control from the group consisting of a dialog box, a pull-down menu, and a text entry field.

75. (New) The method of claim 74, further comprising:

displaying an instruction area that presents instructions for the user to click on the element in the form calculation displayed as a hyperlink to modify the element.

76. (New) The method of claim 75, further comprising:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, highlighting a corresponding condition in the form calculation.

77. (New) The method of claim 76, further comprising:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, displaying a dialog for setting up configuration of the database query.

78. (New) A computer program product for editing a form calculation, the form calculation being a database query, the computer program product comprising a computer readable memory device having computer readable code stored thereon for processing data information such that the code, when executed by a processing device, causes the processing device to perform the operations of:

displaying a pre-formatted form calculation that includes displaying a hyperlink for an element in the form calculation, the form calculation being a database query and including a mathematical equation, displaying the hyperlink to indicate to a user that a control is available for the element, the hyperlink including at least one hyperlink target, the hyperlink target identified by a link to a choice satisfying the element on the form calculation, the hyperlink providing a link from the form calculation to another location, wherein the another location is

-12-

identified by a reference to a list of valid variables in the form calculation;

responsive to selection of the hyperlink by the user, presenting the control for user interaction, the control displaying the list of valid variables, each valid variable for selection in the list of valid variables being presented without a hyperlink;

receiving a selection of a valid variable from the list of valid variables; and

upon completion of user interaction with the control and in response to receiving the selection, replacing the element with a new element corresponding to the selection of the valid variable, displaying the hyperlink for the new element in the form calculation, and causing the presented control to disappear.

79. (New) The computer program product of claim 78, wherein code that displays the pre-formatted form calculation includes:

displaying a second hyperlink for a second element in the form calculation, the form calculation including a mathematical equation, displaying the second hyperlink to indicate to a user that a control is available for the second element, the second hyperlink including at least one second hyperlink target, the second hyperlink target identified by a second link to a choice satisfying the second element on the form calculation, the second hyperlink providing a link from the form calculation to a second another location, wherein the second another location is identified by a reference to a list of valid operators in the form calculation;

responsive to selection of the second hyperlink by the user, presenting the control for user interaction, the control displaying the list of valid operators for the mathematical equation, each operator for selection in the list being presented without a hyperlink;

receiving a selection of a valid operator from the list of valid operators; and

upon completion of user interaction with the control and in response to receiving the selection of a valid operator, replacing the second element with a second new element corresponding to the selection of the valid operator,

-13-

displaying the second hyperlink for the second new element in the form calculation and causing the presented control to disappear.

80. (New) The computer program product of claim 79, wherein program code which presents the control for user interaction includes program code which selects the control from the group consisting of a dialog box, a list, and a text entry field.

81. (New) The computer program product of claim 80, further comprising program code which:

displays an instruction area that presents instructions for the user to click on the element in the form calculation displayed as a hyperlink to modify the element.

82. (New) The computer program product of claim 81, further comprising program code which:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, highlights a corresponding condition in the form calculation.

83. (New) The computer program product of claim 82, further comprising program code which:

upon the selection of the hyperlink by the user, displays a dialog for setting up configuration of the database query.